


ULVERSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1970



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Divisional Health Office,
Brogden Street,
Ulverston.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ulverston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical
Officer of Health for the year 1970.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	3,196
Population - Census 1961	10,527
Registrar General's Estimate of home population mid 1970	11,080
Number of inhabited dwellings	3,994
Rateable Value	£383,582
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£1,529.4367

Although a large part of the district is rural in character a variety of industries are carried on in the town, the chief of which are manufacture of anti-biotics and other pharmaceuticals, electrical accessories, electronic components, tanning, brewing, tool making, electro-mechanical and light engineering and knitwear manufacturing. Agriculture plays a large part in the life of the community and a cattle market is held weekly. Ulverston is also the market town for the surrounding countryside and a public market is held once a week.

VITAL STATISTICS

The principal vital statistics for 1970 and for the preceding five years are given on page 2.

Of the 178 live births registered during 1970, 90 were males of which 3 were illegitimate and 88 were females of which none were illegitimate.

Approximately 73% of deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over. The principal causes of deaths were:- Heart disease 67, Vascular lesions of nervous system 54 and Malignant Growths 31. Of the 67 deaths from Heart disease 59 were due to Coronary Artery disease.

The adjusted live birth rate of 17.5 per 1,000 and the adjusted death rate of 13.0 per 1,000 can be compared with the corresponding rates for England and Wales of 16.0 per 1,000 and 11.7 per 1,000 respectively.

Year	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Infant Mortality Total			Neo-Natal (under 4 weeks of age)	
	Number regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation	Number regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation	Number regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	
1970	178	16.1	201	18.1	Nil	Nil	3	17.0	1	6.0	
1969	182	16.8	193	17.8	6	32.0	3	16.0	1	5.0	
1968	190	17.8	163	15.2	4	21.0	4	21.0	1	5.0	
1967	151	14.3	191	18.1	3	19.0	2	13.0	1	7.0	
1966	182	17.5	176	16.9	Nil	Nil	3	16.5	2	11.0	
1965	158	15.3	162	15.7	1	6.3	1	6.3	1	6.3	
Average 5 years 1965-69	-	16.3	-	16.7	-	15.7	-	14.6	-	6.9	

Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor 1.09) = 17.5 per 1,000
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 0.72) = 13.0 per 1,000

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :-

J.L. WILD, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments held :-

Medical Officer of Health -

Dalton-in-Furness Urban District,
Grange-over-Sands Urban District,
North Lonsdale Rural District.

Divisional Medical Officer -

Health Division No. 1.
Lancashire County Council.

Public Health Inspector :-

J.K. YATES, Joint Board Certificate R.S.I.
Meat and other Foods Certificate.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY

The Furness Water Board is responsible for the provision and maintenance of public water supplies in the Ulverston Urban District. The water supplied to the District is upland surface water which is collected into Pennington reservoir. It is sand filtered, then stored in a covered service reservoir of $2\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons capacity. Subsequently it is chlorinated before passing into the trunk main for distribution.

The supply was satisfactory in quantity and quality throughout the year.

During the year 172 new dwellings and four existing dwellings were connected to the public mains and at the end of the year 3,993 dwellings were supplied direct and 1 was supplied from a private source.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The sewage is screened and disintegrated, then stored and discharged out to sea only on an ebb tide, but storm water overflow is pumped out to sea at any state of tide. All operations are automatic.

At 31st December, 1970 there were approximately 3,988 dwellings on the water carriage system with approximately 7,500 fresh water closets.

HOUSING

(1) Number of new dwellings erected during the year:-		
(1) By the local authority	Houses Nil	Flats 8
(2) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	164	Nil
(2) Total No. of Council-owned dwellings existing at end of year	1,056	

(3) <u>Inspections of dwellings during the year:-</u>	<u>Number</u>
(1) (a) Total No. of dwellings inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	63
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	135
(c) No. of dwellings in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit.	21
(2) Total No. of dwellings existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which	
(a) Demolition Orders have been made (at any time)	22
(b) Demolition or Closing Orders have not yet been made	51

(4) <u>Houses Demolished:-</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Displaced during year</u>	
		<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
In Clearance Areas:	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not in Clearance Areas:			
(a) As a result of formal or informal procedure under S.16 or S.17(1), Housing Act, 1957	9	8	3
(b) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health..	7		
(c) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts..	Nil		
(d) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	Nil		

(5) <u>Unfit Houses Closed:-</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Displaced during year</u>	
		<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
(1) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	2	2	2

(6) <u>Unfit Houses Made Fit:-</u>	<u>Number</u>
(1) By owner after informal action by local authority	4
(2) After formal notice under S.9 and S.16, Housing Act, 1957-	
(a) by owner	Nil
(b) by local authority	Nil
(3) After formal notice under Public Health Acts	Nil
(4) After modification or revocation of a clearance order under S.24, Housing Act, 1961	Nil
(5) After determination of a demolition order under S.24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil

(7) <u>Unfit Houses in Temporary Use:-</u>	Nil
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(8) <u>Purchase of Houses by Agreement:-</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>No. of occupants</u>
Houses in clearance areas other than those included in confirmed orders or compulsory purchase orders	10	16

(9) <u>Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 and Housing Act, 1969 - Improvement Grants, etc.</u>		<u>No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected in schemes of -</u>		
Action taken during the year:-		<u>Private bodies or individuals</u>		<u>Local Authority</u>
		<u>Owner Occupied</u>	<u>Others</u>	
(1) Submitted by private individuals to local authority		10	2	-
(2) Approved by local authority		10	2	-
(3) Submitted by local authority to Ministry		Nil	Nil	Nil
(4) Finally approved by Ministry		Nil	Nil	Nil
(5) Work completed		2	Nil	Nil
(6) Additional seperate dwellings included in (5) above		Nil	Nil	Nil

(10) <u>House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, and Housing Acts, 1961, 1964 and 1969 - Standard Grants:-</u>		<u>No. of dwellings or other buildings affected</u>	
Action during year:-		<u>Owner Occupied</u>	<u>Others</u>
(1) Applications submitted to local authority for improvement to (a) full standard (b) reduced standard		19 Nil	10 Nil
(2) Total applications approved by local authority for improvement to (a) full standard (b) reduced standard		19 Nil	10 Nil
(3) Work completed	(From 1968: 1 (1969: 3 (1970: 19	18	5

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Information regarding the inspection of meat, shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the report of the Public Health Inspector (Appendix 'A').

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified in 1970 is given in the table below, together with the numbers notified in the preceding 5 years.

Disease	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Scarlet fever	2	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	264	36	217	31	0	4
Whooping cough	0	0	5	1	0	4
Dysentery	0	0	0	9	0	0
Food poisoning	0	0	0	0	0	1
Infective jaundice (from June, 1968)	-	-	-	5	44	9
TOTALS	266	36	222	46	44	18

In my last report I commented on the complete absence of measles in 1969. Vaccination against measles was started again towards the end of 1969 and has probably contributed to keeping the incidence of this disease to a very low level.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were no new cases of tuberculosis notified during 1970.

The table below shows the number of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Ulverston Urban District residents during the past 12 years.

Years	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1959	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
1960	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
1961	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
1962	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1963	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
1964	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
1965	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1
1966	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
1967	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1968	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1969	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1970	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951

It was not found necessary to take any action under these Acts during the year.

In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Ulverston Urban District Council, particularly the Public Health Inspector for their unfailing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,

J. L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, 1970.

HOUSING.

16 unfit houses were demolished in 1970, nine of which were at Ellerside and the remainder at Dragley Beck. Some of the houses in Ellerside had been closed and empty for several years and were ripe for demolition. This cleared area will be developed by extending the Fell Close bungalow scheme and provide housing suitable for older and infirm persons who require warden supervision. Dragley Beck houses besides being sub-standard, had front doors which opened directly on to the road and thereby created a danger to persons entering or leaving. Development of this area will provide small unit type accommodation and improve road conditions at the road junction.

A small clearance area consisting of six houses in Tyson Square was approved and five houses purchased in Hill Fall as a prelude to the eventual clearance of a larger part of this area.

Voluntary improvement of houses has not increased to the extent anticipated since legislation giving increased grants has been in force. The number of improvement grants (where certain repairs may also be considered for grant aid) as apposed to standard grants which just provided the basic amenities, has shown an increase over previous years. The overall result still leaves much to be desired if more older houses are to be brought up to accepted standards and preserved. Low rents are still evident in many houses and could be preventing many landlords from improving houses for it is the new owner-occupiers of such houses who are mainly taking advantage of the improvement grants.

Public mains water supply has been provided in the Newlands area in place of the unsatisfactory private water supply referred to in earlier reports, and individual housing improvements are to be carried out in due course. Similarly, a private drainage scheme at Rosside will give a new lease of life to four very old cottages and improvements in hand will not only provide bathrooms and the basic amenities but erradicate one of the last privy middens, (and two privy closets,) remaining in the outlying area.

The present approved housing programme, continued in 1970 and designed to be completed by 1973, for the clearance of 77 unfit houses, is revealing the fact that after this date improvement and demolition of unfit houses will continue to be one of the most pressing public health and social tasks for many years.

FOOD AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Three complaints were received suggesting that foodstuffs had been purchased and found to be in an unsound condition. One concerning bread and another semolina were such that legal proceedings could not be taken for any contravention of the Food and Drugs Act, either through insufficient grounds to justify this course of action, or lack of evidence. Both manufactureres and retailers were given full details of these complaints in order to prevent a repetition which might result in more serious consequences. The third complaint alleged that on three occasions fragments of glass were found in bottles of mineral water. Detailed investigations were carried out, including reports from other sources and interviews with the manufacturers, from which the Council was of the opinion that criminal proceedings against the manufacturers could not be taken, and no other action taken.

A successful prosecution was taken against a food trader for failing to comply with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations in respect of a travelling shop and fines totalling £5 were imposed by the magistrates.

The total number of animals slaughtered and inspected at the Public Abattoir increased by about 4% over the previous year. Only eight animal carcasses with a total weight of 7cwts 10 lbs were condemned and making this the lowest on record. This is in striking contrast with figures recorded 20 years ago when, although the number of animals inspected was much higher, over 19% of the cattle were found to be affected with Tuberculosis and 210 animal carcasses were condemned for one reason or other. Abscesses in cattle livers, mainly from barley fed cattle, now accounts for the largest single factor causing condemnation of parts of animals.

Figures relating to meat inspections carried out at the Public Abattoirs are shown below -

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<u>Cattle excluding cows.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep and lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Number killed	1043	15	51	3795	1848
Number NOT inspected	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	3	4	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	58	4	Nil	37	33
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u> Whole carcasses					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
<u>Cysticerci.</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES.

The majority of the contraventions of this Act were found during the earlier part of the year and were due to a failure to provide satisfactory heating in premises where people were employed. Temperatures as low as 46 degrees Fahrenheit were recorded during the day time. In order to satisfy the legal requirements it was, in some instances, necessary for the proprietors to provide a different form of heating; in other cases additional electric radiators were needed to raise the temperature to even the minimum requirements.

One accident of a minor nature was reported and investigated but did not warrant any further action.

It would appear from information obtained about retail shops over the last few years that the number of shop assistants is declining and more shops are managed by the proprietor, with possibly a part time assistant or assistants, and therefore not coming under the jurisdiction of the Act.

Particulars respecting the above are shown in the figures overleaf -

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Class of premises.	Number of premises registered during the year.	Number of registered premises -	
		at end of year.	receiving a general inspection during the year.
Offices	2	29	15
Retail shops	4	100	76
Wholesale shops, warehouses		2	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens		10	4
Fuel storage depots		1	
TOTALS	6	142	96

SAMPLING.

Raw milk is sold by retail from 10 different producers, three of whom have brucella accredited herds. 13 samples of milk were submitted for brucella examination and all were found to be negative. As samples are also taken for similar examination by other authorities, and this is the second year running to have all negative results, it would appear that the incidence of brucella infected milk is declining.

Three samples of the public water supply were analysed and found to be satisfactory and were in keeping with the reported monthly results of the Water Boards analysis of water in the town.

GENERAL.

Figures relating to rodent control are given below. There were no particularly important problems although sewer baiting for rats did again reveal some infestation in two areas. Although the number of inspections (over 1,000) carried out at houses, shops etc., was almost double those of previous years it would be reasonable to conclude that this supervision is only reducing to a negligible degree the number of instances of rats and mice found.

Two houses were disinfested for bugs - an unusual phenomena these days - and 66 other houses for ants, beetles or wasps nests.

RODENT CONTROL.

	<u>Type of property</u>	
	<u>Non Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1. Number of properties in district	4973	19
2. a. Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	407	Nil
b. Number infested by (i) Rats	132	Nil
(ii) Mice	75	Nil
3. a. Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	621	18
b. Number infested by (i) Rats	40	8
(ii) Mice	110	2

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
in respect of the year 1970 for the Ulverston
Urban District in the County of Lancashire.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1961.

Part 1 of the Act.

1 - Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Number of Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
Factories in which section 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	2	-	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	65	71	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	70	73	-	-

2 - Cases in which defects were found.

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred To H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspector</u>
Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temerature (S3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective draining of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S7)				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
(c) Not seperate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-

Part VIII of the Act

Particulars under Sections 133 and 134

No. of outworkers in August list	Nil
No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	Nil

